

Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2022

Meeting was held virtually on Thursday January 13, 2022 at 5:30pm  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/683156157> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting)

Attendance: Jill Lathan, Thomas Graney, Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad, Lt. Polito

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Jacqueline Stagnari, Adrienne Pomeroy, Jessica Bellow, Brad Rawson, Justin Schreiber

Meeting Ground Rules:

1. Listen to the other side
2. Focus on issues, not personalities
3. Avoid questioning motives
4. Be polite

The Chair went over the meeting ground rules, noted the meeting was being recorded and confirmed a quorum then called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

The Chair asked the secretary to conduct a roll call vote on each item.

**Item #1 – A motion was made by Thomas Graney to accept the Minutes from the December 9, 2021 Traffic Commission Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. The Chair confirmed she would vote on this item to keep a quorum as Councilor Gomez-Mouakad is a new member and was not present at the December meeting. The Secretary called a roll call vote: Thomas Graney – yes; Lt. Polito – yes; Jill Lathan – yes. The motion carries 3-0.**

**Item #2 – Request for Handicapped Parking**

- a) 78 Moreland St
- b) 29 Warren Av
  - Adrienne Pomeroy stated she reviewed the applications and sites and recommends approval for both.

**A motion to approve was made by Thomas Graney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. The Secretary called a roll call vote: Thomas Graney – yes; Lt. Polito – yes; Councilor Gomez-Mouakad – yes. The motion carries 3-0.**

**Item #3 – Request for parking regulation changes at the Avon St and School St intersection to improve the safety of MBTA bus operations on route #85**

- a) Request to eliminate MBTA route 85 stop #2520 - Avon St @ School St which utilizes approximately 60ft of curb space at 2-6 Avon St and replace with Permit Parking Only

- b) Request for approximately 20 feet of curb space at each of 1 Avon St, 73 Summer St, and 75 Summer St (60 feet of curb space total), currently regulated as permit parking only, to be regulated as No Parking Anytime.
  - c) Request for the advertising period for these changes to be waived, to allow them to be incorporated into the MBTA's spring rating.
- Justin Schreiber presented a diagram to the commission. He explained in working with the MBTA this request will allow the 85 bus to make the right hand turn onto Avon St from School St without running over the sidewalk. He noted there is another downstream bus stop around 300ft away on Summer St just past the corner of School St. Eliminating this bus stop will add additional parking spaces in at this location and restricting the 3 spaces at the other locations will allow the bus to make the turn. There will be no net change in parking spaces overall. They are also requesting the advertising period be waived as the deadline for the MBTA spring schedule is January 28<sup>th</sup> and they need assurances that this change can take place before they update the schedule.
  - Jill Lathan asked how people would know the bus stop is eliminated if the advertising is waived and Justin explained the MBTA would advertise this at the bus stop.
  - Jill Lathan asked if there was any data on how many people use this bus stop and Justin stated he did not have the exact number but not many, this is the first stop on the route and the next stop is only about a block away.
  - Jill Lathan asked if the city has a plan to communicate this change to our residents and Justin explained the MBTA will advertise the change. She stated her concern that a sign may not be sufficient notification and Justin explained it will also be posted on the MBTA website and removed from the transit apps. Jill stated she is still concerned for people that show up to the bus stop only to find it has been removed. Brad Rawson stated they would communicate with the operations team at the MBTA to determine when they would deploy their standard customer signage at this stop and confirm residents would have ample notice that the stop will be closed.
  - Suzanne Rinfret stated since this will not be effective until April it can be advertised and the spaces will not be removed until then. Justin Schreiber stated the MBTA's goal is to have certainty of the change by January 28<sup>th</sup> and asked if it can be advertised for a shorter period of time. Suzanne explained as long as the MBTA knows of the approval the advertising can still take place.
  - Councilor Gomez-Mouakad asked that the City Council as a board be notified so they are not taken by surprise and they can put it in their newsletters. She also stated this creates better pedestrian safety as its never safe to have a bus drive over the sidewalk. Justin stated Councilor Ewen-Campen has been notified.

**A motion to approve was made by Thomas Graney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. The Secretary called a roll call vote for the item including a.b. and c: Thomas Graney – yes; Lt. Polito – yes; Councilor Gomez-Mouakad – yes. The motion carries 3-0.**

**A motion to adjourn at 5:45pm was made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Gomez-Mouakad. The motion carries 3-0.**

